

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6871

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS 255

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

AMCONSUL MERIDA

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

AMCONSUL TIJUANA

UNCLAS MEXICO 10659

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, MX

SUBJ: CB BAND RADIO OPERATION BY FOREIGN VISITORS IN MEXICO NOT
PERMITTED

1. THE EXPLOSION IN THE SALE AND USE OF CITIZEN BAND
(CB) RADIOS BY AMERICANS IN THEIR AUTOMOBILES,
RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND BOATS IN THE U.S. HAS BROUGHT
TO THE FORE THE QUESTION OF THE LEGALITY AND PROPRIETY OF
AMERICANS DOING LIKEWISE WHEN THEY VISIT MEXICO. IN THIS
REGARD, THE U.S. NEWS MEDIA HAVE CARRIED UNCONFIRMED
REPORTS OF DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY AMERICAN VISITORS
AS WELL AS ERRONEOUS INFORMATION ON MEXICAN LAWS
RESPECTING CB RADIO OPERATIONS IN MEXICO. THE FOLLOWING
GENERAL GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED TO CONSTITUENT POSTS TO
ASSIST THEM IN FIELDING INQUIRIES ON CB RADIO
OPERATIONS IN MEXICO AND TO THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH
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IS REQUESTED TO DISSEMINATE IT AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE.

2. MEXICAN LAW PERMITS THE OPERATION OF CB RADIOS ONLY BY MEXICAN CITIZENS DULY LICENSED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION.

FOREIGN VISITORS, INCLUDING AMERICANS, WHO ENTER MEXICAN TERRITORY IN VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH CB RADIOS ARE PROHIBITED FROM OPERATING THEIR RADIOS DURING THEIR STAY. THERE IS NO LEGAL PROVISION FOR OR MECHANISM WHEREBY VISITORS CAN APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN A TEMPORARY LICENSE TO OPERATE A CB RADIO. MOREOVER, THERE IS A PROHIBITION ON THE IMPORATAIION OF CB BAND RADIOS INTO MEXICO. THE PROHIBITION APPARENTLY IS NOT APPLIED TO CB RADIOS INSTALLED IN FOREIGN VEHICLES PERMITTED INTO MEXICO FOR A TEMPORARY STAY ON THE ASSUMPTION THE CB RADIO WILL ACCOMPANY THE VISITOR IN HIS VEHICLE WHEN HE RETURNS TO THE U.S. CONTRARY TO SEVERAL AMERICAN PRESS REPORTS, THERE IS NO MEXICAN POLICY OF PLACING A SEAL ON THE RADIO AT MEXICAN POINTS OF ENTRY.

3. AMERICANS PLANNING TO VISIT MEXICO IN VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH CB BAND RADIOS SHOULD BE ADVISED TO:

- A. LEAVE THE EQUIPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES IF AT ALL POSSIBLE;
- B. DECLARE BEFORE MEXICAN CUSTOMS AT POINT OF ENTRY CB EQUIPMENT IN THE CAR AND BE SURE IT IS LISTED ON THE CUSTOMS DECLARATION TOGETHER WITH OTHER REQUISITE ITEMS;
- C. REFRAIN FROM OPERATING THE RADIO IN MEXICO AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SELL THE EQUIPMENT WHILE IN MEXICO.

FAILURE OF A VISITOR TO COMPLY WITH POINT (C) COULD LEAD TO LEGAL PROSECUTION BY THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES.
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